AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-26 (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) A method of imaging atherosclerotic plaques in a host comprising:

introducing a diagnostically effective amount of detectably labeled human or humanized monoclonal antibody (Mab) or fragment thereof, human monoclonal antibody fragment (Fab), or single chain fragment (scFv), or small molecule analog into the host vasculature, said antibody or fragment thereof being specific for oxidation specific epitopes found on copper-induced oxidized low density lipoprotein (Cu-OxLDL) and malondialdehyde low density lipoprotein (MDA-LDL), wherein said antibody or fragment thereof does not bind native LDL, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof inhibits uptake of Cu-OxLDL by macrophages, and wherein said antibody or fragment thereof binds such epitopes *in vivo* at a detectably higher rate than the rate of binding to normal vasculature; and

determining whether the antibody binds to the vasculature, wherein the binding of said antibody to the vasculature is indicative of the presence of atherosclerotic plaques.

28. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the detectably labeled Fab is IK17.

29. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the detectably labeled scFv is IK17.

30. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the size of the atherosclerotic plaque detected in the cardiovascular tissue is estimated as a correlate of the percent of the injected dose of detectably labeled antibody to another site in the body that does not contain atherosclerotic plaques.

31. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the imaging method is

used as a means to monitor the progression or regression of atherosclerotic disease.

32. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the imaging method is used as a prognostic indicator of pathology of an atherosclerotic plaque.

33. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein an antigen or related epitope of the detectably labeled antibody is administered to the host to reduce residual label in the blood after introduction of the detectably labeled antibody into the host.

34. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the detectable label is selected from the group consisting of: radioisotopes, paramagnetic labels, echogenic liposomes, biotin, and fluorescence.

35. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the detection method is selected from the group consisting of: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computer axial tomography (CAT) scan, positron emission tomography (PET) scan, electron beam, computed tomography (CT) scan, single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) imaging, gamma imaging, angiography, intravascular ultrasound, and intravascular radioactive and fluorescent detection.

36. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the binding of said antibody to the vascular tissue is indicative of plaques containing lipid pools exceeding 40% of the plaque area.

37. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein detection of binding of said antibody is effected by whole body imaging.

38. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the detection of binding of said antibody is effected at a specific site or sites.

39. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 38, wherein said site is the carotid artery.

40. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the host is a person undergoing treatment with a therapeutic agent for the treatment of atherosclerosis.

41. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 40, wherein the detection is effected after treatment.

42. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein said antibody inhibits uptake of oxidized LDL by macrophages.

43. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein the antibody comprises the variable light chain is encoded by a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID 1 and a variable heavy chain encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID 2.

44. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 27, wherein said subject is a human having or suspected of having atherosclerotic disease.

45. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 44, which further comprises angiography.